

Meeting Minutes #6

Subcommittee on Racial and Other Profiling Disparities

Date: Monday, March 7, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Objectives:

Continuance of Draft recommendations for strategies to reduce racial and other profiling

Attendees: Walter Blalark, Councilwoman Powell, Charles Horton, Lejewel Crigler, Corey Battles, Deputy Chief Adam Schuessler

Agenda

Time (CT)	Topic	Notes
6:00pm	Call to Order, Roll Call and Agenda Review Review and Approve Meeting Minutes	Meeting started @6:26pm Minutes were approved through consensus
6:05pm	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Any member of the public who wishes to address the task force may do so via Elgin City Hall</i>	No public comment

<p>6:10pm</p>	<p>Recommendations for strategies to reduce racial and other profiling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of comments from full task force meeting • Review and discussion of potential recommendations 	<p>Facilitator Hoereth: Article was given to the Subcommittee sent by Chief Lalley to be discussed amongst the group.</p> <p>Questions from the Task Force:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rather this SC will be addressing or considering ideas of reparations. ● Break down of the number of officers by race <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Race of the officer is on the Transparency site. ● Profiling could be a matter of discretion around the officers. Enabling office biases to come through. Would like to hear from officer ● What are officers looking for when they stop someone? I.e. Criminal, violent criminal,. Officer that stopped Blalark was looking for distracted drivers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not a simple answer to that question there are alot of things that are taken into consideration. Hopefully the officer communicates that to you once you're stopped. ○ Traffic stop of ICV violation: What is the reason for the short stop? <p>Facilitator Hoereth: Can you speak to anything in their training that could help to understand Blalarks question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Depends on the stop. DUI stops citizens will be asked to step out of the vehicle. ● Normally I explain the reason for the stop and the process. Teaching officers how to be professional. ● Blalark: Say we're dealing with a "drug area" , if the officer know the people in the community I would not have been stopped with the assumption that I was "riding dirty" ● Deputy Schuessler: I didn't know everybody and I lived in that area for 5 ½ years. I look at the suspicious behavior, and don't know 2 blks away the race of the person.
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		<p>decrease the stops. The recommendations should reduce the number of stops of black people. That is in the literature. What are the factors? Not a set list of things. Educin stops overall is a strategy. Want to remind us of the concept that comes out of read/discussions.</p> <p>Facilitator Hoereth shared possible recommendations/strategies discovered in the literature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Training● Accountability● Building Community Trust● Strategies to reduce stops <p>Talked to the Civilian Review Board and we know what direction they are possibly going in regards to discipline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Want to hold officer accountable● If you make a recommendation there is accountability to the officer in place. <p>Walter Blalark you have to look at different things. Why have I never been stopped on the Westside? Just in the NE Corridor all the way down. North of the police station all the way to the library. We need to look in the area where most of the stops happen. A person blowing the horn and a person of color was given a ticket for that. What violations are occurring that the officers are arresting people? Is that the only area that has violations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Deputy Schuessler: We use the data driven approach. We create heat maps. More citations are written in D-dax areas. We are going to have officers between Liberty and the City Limits due to traffic complaints. There is a correlation between traffic defenses related to non-traffic crimes. <p>Facilitator Hoereth: An accountability mechanism around where officers are making stops. Trying to explore if there are strategies around reducing stops that are happening disproportionately?</p> <p>Deputy Schuessler responded that it is something to explore. I didn't make a lot of stops on minorities. It is an</p>
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		<p>interesting question but it will have to be looked into. Hoereth: Is there a way to manage an accountability tool? Maybe as a whole. We may not be the first person to ask the question of how the department tracks that data.</p> <p>Councilwoman Powell added that she would like to get us on track with some recommendations to address some concerns which are valid. I would be interested in the Task Force getting down to the bottom of rather it is biases. What is causing it? How do we address it? Interesting to see how the numbers have changed in the last 5 years. Are the numbers better or worse? How does the Guardian aspect factor into this? Do we track the data by officer? Is it an Elgin problem, systematically or just a few bad apples? Without the data you really can't tell. There is value in getting everyone together. I would hate to leave that out after hearing the entire Task Force.</p> <p>Crigler stated that it was discussed as a group but there was a problem with the Open Meetings Act. I feel it's causing a great division. I understand the comfort of 1 on 1 but we are a group. We all want to listen as well as provide input.</p> <p>Facilitator Hoereth: Can we get some officers to come to this meeting so that we can get some initial reactions from the officer.</p> <p>Deputy Schuessler: I can see if I can get some volunteers. I think that there is value to that. I will try to facilitate this.</p> <p>Horton commented how she feels in regards to recommendation on talking to officers and other members chimed in as well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● My recommendation is to adopt ordinances that Philadelphia has and to eliminate low level stops. We should come up with some common sense recommendations. I also recommend that offices come in that have a reputation for pulling people
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		<p>over. I want to hear from the “bad officer” , that is the guy that we are worried about.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Blalark: Looking to recommend but there are officers that are intelligent enough to understand the recommendation. This is not going to be a “complaining” session. We want to come in with an open mind. What is our role as citizens? ● Crigler: I never said small groups that wasn’t brought up until Thursday's meeting. I want to meet with the group. Sara sent out a sign up for individual meetings. We need clarification, can we meet as one group? That was my recommendation. We should be going in with recommendations/ideas. With the whole group and the officers. <p>Deputy Schuessler responds that we have officers willing to do this. I want to make sure that we are clear just because an officer has a lot of stops that doesn’t make them a bad officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Horton: You know the officers in your ranks. I want to talk to the guy with the most complaints. <p>Facilitator Hoereth: We have some ideas to share with the officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PA Ordinacne ● Make that customized to Elgin context ● Bring community into training. What is the training? Community have feedback on training ● Reduce the citations
6:45pm	Break (if needed)	
7:25pm	Wrap up & Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deputy will try to have some officers soon ● The slides have the ideas so if they want to know what has been discussed

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We're going to hear from Training, Hiring, retention There may be some overlap. I think it adds value to hear from all of the groups.● Full TF meeting this coming Thursday● Our meeting will be March 14th● Battles can be there on Monday <p>Meeting adjourned @7:45pm</p>
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This meeting will be conducted via Zoom. The meeting video will be recorded and live streamed at cityofelgin.org/watchtaskforce.

The Adjudication Room across from the Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 150 Dexter Court, will be open for anyone interested in speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting.

All agendas, meeting minutes and meeting video recordings will be available on the City's website: cityofelgin.org/taskforce.